



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, July 2006

Cleanup Activities Conducted On Terrace Drive Properties

The City of San Jose and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will begin cleanup of seven residential backyards contaminated with lead on July 31, 2006. The homes are located on Terrace Drive in San Jose, California (see site map on page 4). The cleanup is being conducted with DTSC's oversight as a Time Critical Removal Action. The removal of contaminated soil from these backyards protects human health and the environment and allows for continued use of the backyards by the residents.

The Removal Action Workplan requires the removal of at least three feet of soil from seven backyards adjacent to Empire Gardens School and Watson Park. The work will be completed in three weeks.

If you have questions about this site, please contact Bill Brown, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3841 or by e-mail at Bbrown@dtsc.ca.gov.

This fact sheet provides you information about:

- Site History and Background
- Investigation Findings
- Summary of the Cleanup Activities
- California Environmental Quality Act

Site History and Background

In 2004 during construction of a new skate park, ash and other debris was uncovered from a burn dump and landfill that was closed in the early 1930's. After a soil investigation, elevated levels of lead and other contaminants were found in soil samples that were taken throughout Watson Park. As a precautionary measure to protect public health the Park was closed in August 2005 and will remain closed until the site has been fully investigated.

Investigation Findings

In spring 2006, soil samples were taken throughout Watson Park to define the lateral and vertical extent of the burn dump materials. Based on the preliminary results, additional soil samples were taken from 8 residential homes adjacent to the school. The soil sample results of 7 of the 8 properties showed elevated levels of lead (240-6,200 milligrams per kilogram or parts per million (ppm)), similar to what was found at Watson Park. DTSC has determined that the cleanup level in surface soils (soils up to 3 feet below the ground surface) should be less than 255 ppm. The lead most likely came from glass, ceramic glazes, and paints which are commonly disbursed throughout the burn dump landfill.

Si desea informacion en Espanol, comuniquese con Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participacion Publica al (916) 255-3315 or Gratis 1 (866) 495-5651.



Summary of Cleanup Activities

The first phase, site preparation of the seven properties, will take about a week. Backyard fences will be removed and a security fence set up around the entire work site. Vents, doors, and windows closest to the work area will be covered with plastic. Water and irrigation systems will be turned off and capped.

The soil removal activities will take about another week. A minimum of three feet of soil will be removed from the backyards. This includes removal of landscaping, trees and shrubs, flowerbeds, and concrete walkways and patios. Once the three feet of the soil has been removed, soil samples will be taken of the soil in sidewalls to document what levels of lead are in the remaining soil.

Backfilling the yards with clean soil is the last phase of the project and takes about a week. Backyard fencing will be replaced, the security fence will be removed, and rear yards will be ready for re-landscaping.

The soil removal and backfill with clean soil will take approximately three weeks, from July 31 to August 18.

Truck Route

Since large trucks will be needed to do this work, the City and DTSC have obtained permission from the San Jose Unified School District to use the private school road to stage the soil removal activities. Currently Empire Gardens School is out for summer session and all the activities will be completed before August 23, 2006, the beginning of school. Taking advantage of this window of time means that the heavy equipment necessary for the work will have the best access to the adjacent backyards.

No soil will be temporarily stockpiled on the Terrace Drive properties. No trucks containing contaminated soil will actually leave the burn dump site. Soil will be loaded directly into dump trucks. The contaminated soil will be placed in a stockpile on Watson Park. The stockpile will be covered with plastic sheeting that will be secured with sandbags and appropriately maintained to prevent the wind from blowing the soil. The cleanup plan for Watson Park will address the final use or disposal of the stockpiled soil.

Trucks will travel between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

- The trucks will exit a gate and directly enter Watson Park through a temporary opening that will be made in the fence between the school and Watson Park (see the attached Truck Route Figure).
- The trucks will then proceed to an area west of the Tree Bank on Watson Park where the contents of the trucks will be dumped. Truck tires will be cleaned before they leave Watson Park.
- The trucks will then proceed to the gated entrance of Watson Park located at the terminus of East Jackson Street and turn south on North 22nd Street where they will enter the school parking lot just west of the intersection with East Empire Street. The trucks will then proceed onto the site so that they may be refilled with soil.

Dust Control Measures

Dust control measures, such as spraying water during soil loading, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Airborne dust monitoring will ensure that efforts to reduce dust are working. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned. Dust monitoring will be performed at upwind and downwind locations to monitor the effectiveness of the dust control measures. If excessive dust is detected, modifications to the dust control measures will be made or work will temporarily be stopped until adequate control measures are in place.

Fencing

The entire site is secured by fencing so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area. There will be 24 hour security at the site.

California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the removal action will not have the potential for significant effect on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

Information Repositories

The Soil Removal Action Workplan for Terrace Drive, and other related documents to Watson Park may be viewed at the following locations:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

150 East San Fernando Street
2nd Floor Reference Desk
San José, CA 95112

Northside Community Center

488 North 6th Street
San José, CA 95112
Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Empire Gardens Elementary School

1060 East Empire Street
San José, CA 95112
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
File Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
By appointment only (510) 540-3800

For More Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this project.

For questions regarding the cleanup activities, please contact Bill Brown, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3841 or by e-mail at Bbrown@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the public participation activities, please contact Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll-free at (866) 495-5651 or at (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail at Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the media, please contact Ms. Angela Blanchette, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732 or by e-mail at Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315 or Gratis 1 (866) 495-5651.

Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

For more information regarding the Watson Park site, please visit the DTSC website:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=70000112

